

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

July 21, 2004

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2004, in the Truckee Town Hall Council Chambers, 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, California. The meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Tim Brady, DeVere Mautino, Russ Steele, Josh Susman, Peter Van Zant (alternate), Conley Weaver

Members Absent: Robin Sutherland

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner

Standing Orders: Chairman Mautino convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports: June 2004

Due to the unavailability of year-end reports from the Nevada County Auditor, financial reports will be provided in the September 15, 2004 Nevada County Transportation Commission agenda packet.

2. Correspondence:

B. Caltrans District 3 – Third quarter report regarding Caltrans' progress on projects within Nevada County.

Commissioner Van Zant raised concerns over the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) budget and the perceived shift of money toward improvements on SR 49, versus the local priority to construct the Dorsey Drive Interchange. Tom Brannon, Caltrans District 3 Project Manager for Nevada County projects, stated that the schedule for the Dorsey Drive Interchange project had been adjusted to match with funding available from the state. He noted that the Dorsey Drive project is funded with Regional Improvement Program (RIP) monies controlled by NCTC, while the SR 49 widening is funded with RIP and Interregional Improvement Program (IIP) funds controlled by Caltrans. By programming RIP funds on State Highway projects, NCTC is able to leverage IIP funds from Caltrans. Mr. Brannon cautioned the Commission there is a high probability that diverting funds from the SR 49 widening project would cause Caltrans to move IIP funds to projects outside of Nevada County.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding transportation funding and its relationship to the current state budget situation, which has resulted in a lack of flexibility for programming of high priority regional projects. During the discussion Commissioner Van Zant noted that the ability to complete transportation improvements should be driven more by the priority and needs identified in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process than by eligibility criteria for funding programs. Commissioner Van Zant expressed concern regarding delays in the schedule for Dorsey Drive Interchange and noted that there are several problematic locations in the Grass Valley area that will

be resolved with the completion of the Dorsey Drive Interchange. Executive Director Landon noted that the current situation, where funds are being diverted from transportation programs into the State General Fund, has negated the funding flexibility created with the passage of SB 45 in 1997.

Mr. Brannon noted that the schedule for the Dorsey Drive Interchange cannot be accelerated because the scheduling of key tasks such as the completion of environmental studies, the design, and right-of-way processes have been scheduled to match with funding availability.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Commissioner Van Zant made a motion requesting that staff write a letter to Sunne Wright McPeak, California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary, and possibly our local legislators, requesting a re-examination of the funding process to provide regions with the ability to accomplish their high priority improvements, based on the RTP process. Commissioner Susman seconded the motion. Commissioner Weaver opposed the motion. The motion passed with a 5 to 1 vote. The Commission directed staff to bring a draft letter back to the September meeting for their review.

Commissioner Susman asked for consensus that Executive Director Landon and Tom Brannon work together to identify opportunities for local jurisdictions to partner and work with Caltrans to accelerate the Dorsey Drive Interchange schedule. Commissioner Mautino questioned if funds from Measure F could be used for roads. Commissioner Van Zant explained that Measure F earmarked a portion of vehicle license fees for county road projects, but vehicle license fees are also being diverted into the state budget.

- D. Nevada County Broadcasters, Inc. – Thank you letter to Dan Landon for his participation in the Town Hall forums on traffic, hosted by KNCO and The Union newspaper.

Commissioner Steele commented he heard the KNCO traffic forum and stated that Executive Director Landon did a great job answering questions.

3. Legislative Update:

Executive Director Landon stated there had been no substantive action on the bills the Commission is following.

4. Executive Director's Report.

4.1 Regional System Operations Plan

Executive Director Landon reported that he will discuss a scope of work for a planning project to identify low-cost/short-term solutions to improve local traffic operations at the July 22nd TAC meeting. Mr. Landon will report the results of the TAC discussion to the Commission.

4.2 Clarification of Responsibilities of the NCTC and Transit Services Commission

Executive Director Landon reviewed the separation of responsibilities between the NCTC and Transit Services Commission (TSC). NCTC is responsible for the allocation of funds for transit and paratransit services, the unmet needs process, and the Regional Transportation Plan. The TSC has responsibility to develop the budget for transit services and to oversee day-to-day operations.

4.3 Nevada City/Nevada County Boulder Street/Red Dog Road Traffic Analysis

Commissioner Weaver reported that Nevada City Council and staff do not agree with the determinations and conclusions in this study. City Engineer Bill Falconi has discussed these issues with Grant Johnson of PRISM Engineering, who conducted the traffic analysis. Executive Director Landon noted that Nevada County is responsible for the Deer Creek II project and how it impacts Nevada City traffic flow, so the County and City will need to negotiate through the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process to determine the final outcome. NCTC does not have jurisdiction over the Deer Creek II project.

5A. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager for Nevada County.

Tom Brannon referred to the highlighted items on his monthly Project Status Report as follows:

- *Bear River to Wolf/Combie Road Widening:* Ribbon cutting ceremony took place on July 20th to officially open the roadway.
- *Truckee SR 89 Roundabout Project:* Obtained signatures on all the plans, and bids will go out soon.
- *Truckee Bypass Mitigation Planting Project:* Ready to list for the third time and the project is scheduled for a vote at the August California Transportation Commission meeting.
- *SR 49 Shoulder Widening at Pekolee:* Environmental clearance completed and the project report is signed. Now into the PS&E (Plans, Specifications, and Estimates) design phase.
- *Gold Flat Road Interchange:* Installation of stop signs to occur within the next two months. Caltrans will repair the pothole in the bridge. Low pavement approaches to the bridge to be repaired by the City of Nevada City or Nevada County.
- *SR 20 at McCourtney/Mill Street:* Commissioner Mautino previously requested investigation of accident reports at this location. Tom Brannon provided an accident summary and collision diagram, and concluded there is no pattern to the types of accidents or a concentration of accidents at one specific location. Therefore, no safety project will be planned.
- *Environmental Studies on SR 49:* Mr. Brannon reported that Caltrans biologists have been able to work with the Fish and Game protocol for conducting studies of endangered species which, in the case of the SR 49 corridor, is the red-legged frog. The result of their work has been that the biologists will be required to look in waterways and ponds within 200 yards of the limits of the project, which will reduce the need to obtain permits to enter several private properties along the SR 49 corridor.
- *Dorsey Drive Interchange:* Commissioner Brady noted that there are two design options being considered for the Dorsey Drive Interchange and questioned if the right-of-way (R/W) needed for the two alternatives would be the same. Mr. Brannon stated that the needs would be different, depending on which alternative is chosen, and the Caltrans Environmental and R/W staff will evaluate the final design that is selected and determine the R/W that is needed. The signalized intersection requires a seven-lane bridge to accommodate the needed turn lanes. The roundabout alternative requires only a three-lane structure, which would substantially reduce construction costs.

5B. Caltrans District 3 – Draft Implementation of the Community Involvement Plan for SR 49 Widening: Ann Marie Robinson, Caltrans Planner for Nevada County.

Ann Marie Robinson spoke about the draft chart she developed (included in packet) to lay out programs and dates of implementation for community involvement of the SR 49 widening project at La Barr Meadows Road. She invited anyone to comment on the chart at the next NCTC meeting, or email comments to her. Commissioner Van Zant requested Ms. Robinson give the Board of Supervisors and City Councils of Grass Valley and Nevada City a brief update of this project. Ms. Robinson agreed to this.

6. Update on the Truckee River Legacy Trail: Dan Wilkins, Town Engineer, Town of Truckee

Mr. Wilkins gave the Commission an update on this project, and noted that NCTC's involvement was through a Transportation Equity Act (TEA) Grant and Local Transportation Ped and Bike Funds. He noted it is possible that the segment of trail recently constructed may be paved within two years. He also provided a display board showing the entire six-mile trail with various phases. Commissioner Susman congratulated Mr. Wilkins for an excellent job of taking the idea of the trail several years ago and bringing it into fruition. Due to Mr. Wilkins' efforts, volunteers contributed the equivalent of \$50,000 to \$60,000 in labor and supplies.

CONSENT ITEMS:

7. NCTC Minutes: June 16, 2004. *Approved.*
8. Purchase of Phone System: *Approved.*
9. 2000 Urban Census Boundary: *Adopted Resolution 04-21.*
10. Supporting Documentation for Nevada City's LTF Claim: *Approved documentation.*

Commissioner Steele made a motion to approve the consent items. Commissioner Susman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

11. Allocation of \$100,000 of Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Funds for Completion of a Project Study Report:

Executive Director Landon explained the need to complete the Project Study Report for the Frontage Road improvements between the Idaho-Maryland/East Main Street intersection, and the South Auburn Street/Colfax Avenue intersection. The work is being prepared by Bickett Engineering, Inc. This project will be funded by the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee program.

Commissioner Susman made a motion to approve Resolution 04-22. Commissioner Steele seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Allocation Request from Nevada County: *The County of Nevada requested an allocation of \$1,529,337 from Local Transportation Funds in FY 2004/05 for operations of transit and paratransit services, and an allocation of \$67,139 from Community Transit Services Funds for operations of paratransit services.*

Executive Director Landon referred to the documentation in support of this claim and stated it is consistent with the adopted budget.

Commissioner Van Zant made a motion to approve Resolution 04-23. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Susman reported the results of the Great Race that came through the Town of Truckee on July 1, 2004. The race went from Tallahassee, FL to Monterey, CA with 11 host cities through 13 states. The drivers and navigators voted the Town of Truckee as the most welcoming city. As a result of being the Great American Host City, a \$10,000 donation was received toward the local library.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING:

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2004 at 8:30 a.m., at the Nevada City Council Chambers.

Commissioners Mautino and Steele mentioned they would be absent from the September 15th meeting. Commissioner Weaver volunteered to chair, as the host city.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Chairman Mautino adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Antoinette Perry, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: _____

By: _____
DeVere Mautino, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission